



65 E. BROADWAY  
BUTTE, MT 59701  
PHONE: 406-782-7333 FAX: 406-782-9675  
WEBSITE: [www.headwatersrcd.org](http://www.headwatersrcd.org)

August 18, 2015

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners,

Headwaters Resource, Conservation and Development (Headwaters RC&D) supports sustainable economic development. From aiding in the creation of a business plan to providing technical assistance to community groups, Headwaters RC&D improves the economic and social well-being of the Southwest Montana region through conservation, development, and proper use of natural and human resources.

Broadband availability can be an issue in rural Montana. It is certainly a factor that some companies consider as they pencil out their business plans and contemplate where to locate or expand. The proposed merger of Charter Communications with Time Warner and Bright House Networks could help in that regard. If approved, the merger is expected to result in wider broadband coverage and higher internet speeds across Montana and beyond.

New Charter, the company that would be formed by the transaction, would be legally bound under the terms of the agreement to produce a number of deliverables. First, they would digitize the assets acquired from Time Warner and Bright House, which would allow them to offer customers higher-speed service, starting at 60Mbps. Second, they would expand residential broadband service by extending a million new lines into areas that are currently underserved. Third, they would expand service into commercial areas to provide greater market competition and help stimulate economic development by supporting existing businesses and attracting new companies to locate in commercial districts. The company would expand WiFi service as well.

Additionally, Charter has also vowed to hire thousands of new employees including technicians, customer service staff and call center operators. Headwaters RC&D welcomes infrastructure improvements that support the placement of new jobs in Southwest Montana. If new jobs and better, faster, more reliable internet service results from the proposed merger, we are happy to support it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbie Durham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Barbie Durham, Executive Director

Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc.